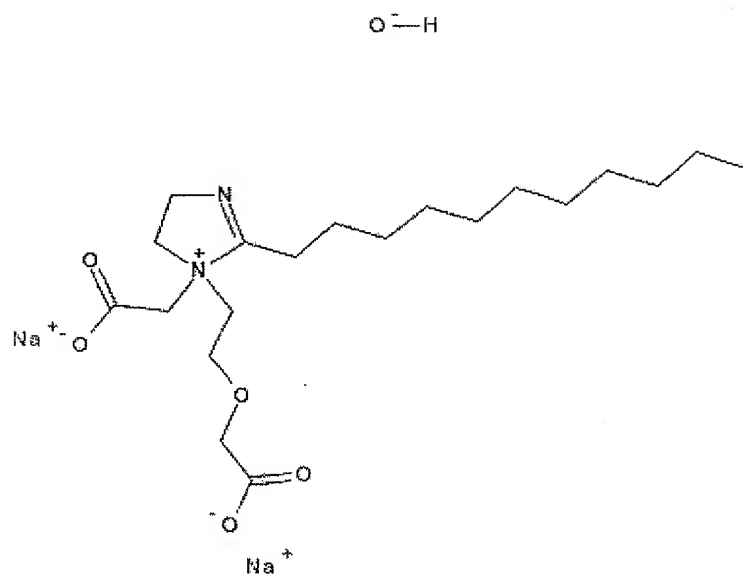
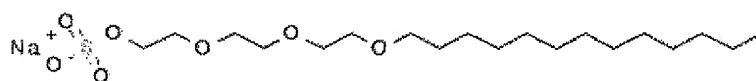


Disodium lauroamphodiacetate:



See <http://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/summary/summary.cgi?cid=84372>

Sodium trideceth sulfate:



See [http://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/summary/summary.cgi?cid=23668601&loc=ec\\_rcs](http://pubchem.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/summary/summary.cgi?cid=23668601&loc=ec_rcs)

The structure of Disodium Lauroamphodiacetate, which is the closest reference component, does not fall within the general structure of the compounds recited in the claims. Disodium Lauroamphodiacetate is substituted at the nitrogen atom leading to a quaternary nitrogen atom bearing a positive charge. Therefore, the chemical characteristics of this compound are expected by one of ordinary skill in the art to differ strongly from the characteristics of compounds Ia and Ib of the present claims. The nitrogen atom is only substituted by a hydrogen atom and these compounds are not charged. A person of ordinary skill in the art would, therefore, not have considered carrying out such significant changes in the structural features in order to arrive at the compounds recited in the present claims.

In addition, Miracare BT is a surfactant commonly used in cleansing and washing preparations, e.g., shampoos, baths, liquid soaps, facial cleansers, shower gels, bubble baths, as disclosed in the herewith filed page of the brochure. There is no reason why a skilled person would have considered significantly altering the chemical structure of an ingredient of a typical cleansing additive in order to subsequently use it in a method for the prophylaxis or protection of human skin against wrinkling.

As such, there is no obviousness.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,

/Csaba Henter/

Csaba Henter, Reg. No. 50,908  
Attorney for Applicants

MILLEN, WHITE, ZELANO & BRANIGAN, P.C.  
Arlington Courthouse Plaza 1  
2200 Clarendon Boulevard, Suite 1400  
Arlington, VA 22201  
Direct Dial: 703-812-5331  
Facsimile: 703-243-6410  
Attorney Docket No.:MERCK-2926

Date: June 18, 2010